

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 48, and 56 as follows.

Please cancel claims 4, 53, and 54.

Please add new claims 61 and 62.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently amended) A transparent window pane having first and second generally-opposed major surfaces, the transparent pane being sized and shaped to be mounted in a frame configured to receive at least one edge of the pane, the transparent pane having a removable protective covering comprising a plurality of strips of masking material that are disposed over a central portion ~~all~~ of said first surface and that extend across a length of said first surface or across a width of said first surface, said central portion spanning at least 70% of said first surface, said first surface having except an unmasked peripheral apron, the protective covering having readily accessible means for removing the protective covering from the window pane, ~~the protective covering comprising a plurality of strips of masking material,~~ wherein the masking material is a masking film that is transparent or translucent, wherein the strips of transparent or translucent masking film are disposed in a sequentially overlapping fashion with each subsequent strip overlapping a portion of a preceding strip, such that the overlapped strips of transparent or translucent masking film define a plurality of exposed lateral edges that form said readily accessible means for removing the protective covering from the window pane, wherein said plurality of sequentially overlapped strips of masking material are each adhered to said first major surface by a masking adhesive, wherein the

overlapped strips are affixed to one another, and wherein the overlapped strips are affixed to one another by being adhesively joined.

2-5 (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein the unmasked apron extends between an outer periphery of said protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane.

7. (Canceled)

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8. (Previously presented) The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends beneath a confronting surface of the frame when the pane is mounted.

9. (Original) The transparent pane of claim 8 wherein said peripheral side portion of the protective covering does not extend so far beneath said confronting surface of the frame as to engage glazing compound between the frame and the pane.

10. (Previously presented) The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that all peripheral side portions of the protective covering extend beneath confronting surfaces of the frame when the pane is mounted.

11. (Original) The transparent pane of claim 10 wherein said peripheral side portions of the protective covering do not extend so far beneath said confronting surfaces of the frame as to engage glazing compound between the frame and the pane.

12. (Original) The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein the pane is part of a multiple-pane insulating glass unit.

13-47 (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) A glazing assembly comprising a transparent pane and a frame to which the pane is mounted, wherein the frame receives an edge of the pane, and wherein the assembly includes glazing compound between the frame and the pane, the transparent pane having first and second generally-opposed major surfaces, the transparent pane having a protective covering disposed over a portion of said first surface, wherein the protective covering comprises a plurality of strips of masking material, said first surface having an unmasked apron extending between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane, the protective covering comprising at least one piece of masking material, wherein the masking material is a flexible masking film and is sized, shaped, and positioned such that at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends beneath a confronting surface of the frame but does not extend so far beneath the frame as to engage the glazing compound.

49. (Original) The glazing assembly of claim 48 wherein the pane is mounted such that all edges of the pane are received in the frame.

50. (Previously presented) The glazing assembly of claim 49 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that all peripheral side portions of the protective covering extend beneath confronting surfaces of the frame.

51. (Original) The glazing assembly of claim 50 wherein said peripheral side portions extend a predetermined distance beneath said confronting surfaces of the frame.

52-54 (Canceled)

55. (Original) The glazing assembly of claim 48 wherein the pane is part of a multiple-pane insulating glass unit.

56. (Currently amended) A glazing assembly comprising an insulating glass unit and a frame to which the insulating glass unit is mounted, the insulating glass unit comprising first and second panes each having generally-opposed inner and outer surfaces, the first and second panes each having at least one edge received in the frame, wherein glazing compound is located between the frame and the outer surface of the first pane but not between the frame and outer surface of the second pane, and wherein a protective covering is disposed over a portion of the outer surface of the second pane, wherein the protective covering comprises a plurality of strips of masking material, the outer surface of the second pane having an unmasked apron extending between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the second pane, the protective covering comprising at least one piece of masking material, wherein the masking material is a flexible masking film and is sized, shaped, and positioned such that at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends beneath a confronting surface of the frame.

57. (Previously presented) The glazing assembly of claim 56 wherein the protective covering is provided with at least one tab or extension to facilitate removing the protective covering.

58. (Previously presented) The glazing assembly of claim 57 wherein said at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends a predetermined distance beneath said confronting surface of the frame.

59. (Previously presented) The glazing assembly of claim 58 wherein said predetermined distance is at least about 1/16 inch.

60. (Previously presented) The transparent pane of claim 59 wherein said predetermined distance is about 1/8 inch.

61. (New) A transparent window pane having a square or rectangular shape with four sides and having first and second generally-opposed major surfaces, the transparent pane being sized and shaped to be mounted in a frame configured to receive at least one edge of the pane, the transparent pane having a removable protective covering comprising a plurality of strips of masking material disposed over a central portion of said first surface, said central portion spanning at least 70% of said first surface, said first surface having an unmasked peripheral apron, the protective covering having readily accessible means for removing the protective covering from the window pane, wherein said plurality of strips of masking material are adhered to said first major surface by a masking adhesive, wherein each strip of masking material has a longitudinal axis and lateral edges that are parallel to two sides of the pane and perpendicular to the other two sides of the pane, wherein the masking material is a masking film that is transparent or translucent, wherein the strips of transparent or translucent masking film are disposed in a sequentially overlapping fashion with each subsequent strip overlapping a portion of a preceding strip such that a plurality of the strips each have a concealed lateral edge covered by an adjacent strip and such that the overlapped strips of transparent or translucent masking film define a plurality of exposed lateral edges that form said readily accessible means for removing the protective covering from the window pane, wherein the overlapped strips

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are affixed to one another, and wherein the overlapped strips are affixed to one another by being adhesively joined.

62. (New) A glazing assembly comprising a transparent pane and a frame to which the pane is mounted, wherein the frame comprises vinyl-covered wood or has a tubular construction of metal or metal alloy, wherein the frame receives an edge of the pane, and wherein the assembly includes glazing compound between the frame and the pane, the transparent pane having first and second generally-opposed major surfaces, the transparent pane having a protective covering disposed over a portion of said first surface, said first surface having an unmasked apron extending between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane, the protective covering comprising at least one piece of masking material, wherein the masking material is a flexible masking film and is sized, shaped, and positioned such that at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends beneath a confronting surface of the frame but does not extend so far beneath the frame as to engage the glazing compound.
